

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA POTOMAC REGIONAL
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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IN RE: POTOMAC RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC HEARING

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BEFORE: CHARLES BENNETT, Chair
Russell McLucas, Member
Dr. Evon Barvinchack, Member
Michael Christopher, Member
Mark Mathews, Member

HEARING: Thursday, May 19, 2005
7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Penn State Mont Alto
One Campus Drive
Mont Alto, PA 17237

WITNESSES: Stephen J. Rettig

Reporter: Kenneth D. O'Hearn

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REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

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BEFORE: Ricky A. Leese, Member
 George Fisanich, Member
 Brent Ramsey, Member
 Joseph Hoffman, Member
 Thomas Gratto, Member
 Pat Naugle, Member
 Robert Reichart, Member
 William Reichart, Member
 James Richenderfer, Member
 Mark Bream, Member
 Phyllis Chant, Vice-Chairman

A P P E A R A N C E S

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LORI L. MOHR
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Water Planning Office
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Representative for DEP

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OPENING REMARKS

By Mr. Bennett

6 - 9

TESTIMONY

By Stephen Rettig

9 - 12

CERTIFICATE

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E X H I B I T S

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<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Page Offered</u>
	Antietam Watershed Association	
	Comments of Stephen J. Rettig	9

P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIR CHARLES BENNETT:

Okay. I've got a prepared statement here that I need to read before we start the meeting. Again, I welcome you to the public hearing. It's the State Water Plan Regional Committee input on water resources management issues. I'd like to, again, welcome you this evening to the Potomac Regional Water Resources public hearing to solicit input on water resources management issues in the Potomac River basin. My name is Charles Bennett, and I represent the Potomac Regional Water Resources Committee. With me this evening are members of the Potomac Regional Water Resources Committee and staff from the Department of Environmental Protection.

The purpose of this hearing is to solicit input on water resources management issues in the Potomac basin. This hearing satisfies the requirements of Act 220 of 2002, known as the Water Resources Planning Act, which requires that each regional committee hold at least one combined public meeting and hearing within its region to solicit input on water resources management and water resources planning within the region.

1 Notice of this meeting was published in
2 the Pennsylvania Bulletin on February 5th, 2005 and
3 again on April 30th, 2005. The meeting was also
4 advertised in the Harrisburg Patriot News and locally
5 in the Public Opinion.

6 In order to give everyone an equal
7 opportunity to comment this evening, I'd like to
8 establish the following ground rules. I will call
9 upon the witnesses who have pre-registered to testify
10 at this evening's hearing as included on the schedule
11 of the witnesses. After hearing from these witnesses,
12 I will provide any other interested parties with the
13 opportunity to testify as time allows this evening.
14 Oral testimony is limited to ten minutes for each
15 witness. Organizations are requested to designate one
16 witness to present testimony on its behalf. Each
17 witness is asked to submit three written copies of his
18 or her testimony to aid in transcribing the hearing.
19 Please hand me your copies prior to presenting your
20 testimony. When presenting your testimony, please
21 state your name for the record prior to presenting
22 your testimony. We would also appreciate your help in
23 spelling your names and any terms you may use that may
24 not generally be familiar to us so the transcript can
25 be as accurate as possible.

1 In addition to, or in place of, oral
2 testimony tonight, interested persons may also submit
3 written comments on this proposal. All comments must
4 be received by the Water Planning Office on or before
5 June 30th, 2005. Comments should be addressed to the
6 Department of Environmental Protection, Water Planning
7 Office, care of Lori Mohr, that's M-O-H-R, Lori Mohr.
8 Post Office Box 2063, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 17105-
9 2063. Comments can also be e-mailed to
10 laumohr@state.pa.us. All comments received at today's
11 hearing as well as written comments received by June
12 30th, 2005 will be considered by the Regional Water
13 Resources Planning Committee as we develop the
14 regional component of the State Water Plan. An
15 official comment response document will not be
16 prepared for the comments received at this hearing.
17 Anyone interested in a transcript of this hearing may
18 contact the reporter here this evening to arrange to
19 purchase a copy.

20 I'd like to now call for the first
21 witness that registered. And I need to announce to
22 you that no one has registered to present at tonight's
23 hearing. However, if there are folks who did not
24 register that would like to officially go on the
25 record with a statement regarding the hearing tonight,

1 we would appreciate you stepping forward, you are
2 welcome to go on the official record in the hearing.
3 Yes, sir?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

5 Will all the comments and testimony
6 be compiled for public viewing with resolutions to
7 those comments and recommendations?

8 CHAIR BENNETT:

9 We just read in the prepared statement
10 that there's not going to be a response document. The
11 comments received this evening will be part of the
12 meeting materials that are presented to our committee
13 at the August meeting, and those are all on the web
14 for public viewing. And that was just a question. Is
15 it a question or is it a hearing comment?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

17 Just a question.

18 CHAIR BENNETT:

19 Another question? Okay, it's not on the
20 record then. We'll take a couple questions.

21 SHORT BREAK TAKEN

22 MR. RETTIG:

23 My name is Stephen Rettig. I'm speaking
24 as president of the Antietam Watershed Association in
25 Pennsylvania. Basically, my comments as you perceive

1 on the paper are suggestive for a course of
2 information for your study and recommendations. I'll
3 read them as printed on the paper with number one.
4 Washington Township Municipal Authority recently
5 finished a wellhead protection study on all water
6 sources in Washington Township to be used for
7 consumption by the same, and other customers.
8 Washington Township is about one half of the area in
9 the Antietam Watershed in Pennsylvania. The study was
10 recently --- just recently submitted and presented to
11 the public. It would be available through WTMA, or
12 Washington Township Offices Proper. The study was
13 done by ARM, A-R-M, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The
14 contact person at ARM is Steve Read, a hydrogeologist
15 who did the assessment.

16 Number two, the Antietam Watershed
17 Association is the recipient of a small watershed
18 legacy grant in partnership with other organizations.
19 \$15,000 is set aside for an assessment of a segment of
20 the east branch of the Antietam Creek. This is the
21 branch and groundwater adjacent to the same, which
22 supplies the majority of the wells of Washington
23 Township. This stream assessment will be available as
24 a resource if desired when finished. The assessment
25 is being done by the Center for Watershed Protection

1 of Ellicott City, Maryland.

2 Number three, the Antietam Watershed
3 Association has formed a stream monitoring group,
4 which has been in training through Allarm, a group
5 affiliated with Dickinson College in Carlisle,
6 Pennsylvania. The volunteer group has been trained in
7 scientifically accurate techniques of monitoring
8 various items at a number of sites on the east branch
9 of the Antietam. This will spread to the west branch
10 also. As this data is collected and compiled by the
11 Antietam Watershed Association and Allarm, it will be
12 available also as a resource to measure the integrity
13 of the east branch of the Antietam Creek and
14 eventually the west branch.

15 Franklin County has a comprehensive plan,
16 which may be helpful in assessing the entire area of
17 Franklin County, much of which is in the Potomac
18 basin.

19 Washington Township has compiled a
20 comprehensive plan, which may be of help. And the
21 entire of this township is in the Potomac River basin.

22 The Nature Conservancy has recently done
23 and published a study of Franklin County, centering
24 around the endangered species and sensitive natural
25 areas. This report is available in bound form or on

1 CD. Their main office is in Pennsylvania --- is in
2 Middletown, Pennsylvania.

3 And, finally, the main offices for
4 Michaux State Forest may also be a good resource for
5 assessing water supply and maintenance of the same in
6 the Potomac Watershed in Pennsylvania, as the southern
7 tip of the state forest supplies the water flowing
8 into the Potomac in Franklin County.

9 I hope these resources will be helpful in
10 assessing the Pennsylvania State wide water plan.

11 CHAIR BENNETT:

12 Thank you. Would there be anybody else
13 who would like to make a statement during the hearing?
14 Once, twice. Seeing no one else rising, I'm prepared
15 to close the hearing. Last call. Okay. I'd like to
16 thank you for being here this evening, I hereby
17 adjourn the hearing. It's 7:58 p.m. Thank you very
18 much.

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PUBLIC HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:58 P.M.

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